

Application No. 09/649,951
Amendment dated July 7, 2005
Reply to Final Office Action of April 14, 2005

Docket No. 1252-4642

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-21 and 23-33 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 21, 28-30 and 32 are independent. Claims 1-20, 28, 30 and 31 are allowed. Claims 21, 23-27, 29, 32 and 33 stand rejected.

By this Amendment, all of the rejected claims (i.e., claims 21, 23-27, 29, 32 and 33) are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added by this Amendment.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

In paragraph four (4) of the Final Office Action, claim 23 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite.

The Office Action indicates that claim 23 depends from cancelled claim 22, and the limitation of claim 23 is same as in claim 24.

As indicated above, claim 23 has been cancelled by this amendment rendering the rejection directed to this claim moot.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

In paragraph six (6) of the Final Office Action, claims 21, 23-27, 29, 32 and 33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,739,858 to Suda et al. ("Suda").

As indicated above, all of the rejected claims (i.e., claims 21, 23-27, 29, 32 and 33) have been cancelled by this amendment rendering the rejections directed to these claims moot.

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Docket No. 1232-4642

Applicant believes that the application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

AUTHORIZATION

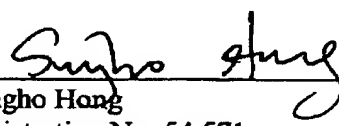
No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-4642). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: July 7, 2005

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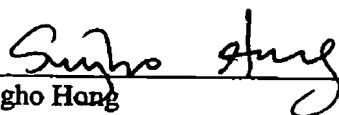
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